

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

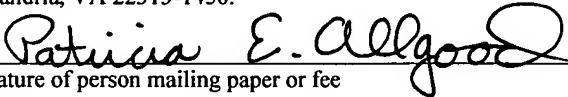
In re patent application:	)	
J. Kenneth Burkus et al.	)	Before the Examiner
Serial No. New Application	)	
Filed Herewith	)	Group Art Unit
METHODS AND INSTRUMENTATION FOR VERTEBRAL INTERBODY FUSION	)	Atty Docket No. 4002-3501/PC316.18 March 19, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure embodied in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and 1.98,  
Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Examiner the items of information listed  
on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant. This information has  
not been previously submitted in this application, and has not been heretofore cited by the  
examiner. Copies of cited items marked with an \* have not been enclosed since the items  
were previously submitted in parent application Ser. No. 09/965,018 filed on September  
27, 2001.

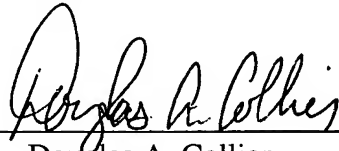
<b>Express Mail Label No</b> EV 394 105 875 US	<b>Date of Deposit</b> March 19, 2004
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 22313, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
	
Signature of person mailing paper or fee	

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, prior art or material to the patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

This Statement is being submitted before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, it is believed that no fee is required for consideration of the submitted items.

Should any fee be required, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Douglas A. Collier  
Reg. No. 43,556  
Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty,  
McNett & Henry LLP  
Bank one Center/Tower  
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-5137  
(317) 634-3456

004002-003501.DAC.270802

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)  Sheet 1 of 4				Atty. Docket No. 4002-3501/PC361.18		Serial No. New Application	
				Applicant Burkus et al.			
				Filing Date Herewith		Group	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
*Examiner Initial		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Filing Date If appropriate
	*1	5,015,255	05/1991	Kuslich			
	*2	5,055,104	8/91	Ray			
	*3	5,431,658	07/1995	Moskovich			
	*4	5,484,437	01/1996	Michelson			
	*5	5,489,307	02/1996	Kuslich et al.			
	*6	5,505,732	04/1996	Michelson			
	*7	5,514,180	05/1996	Heggeness et al.			
	*8	5,556,399	09/1996	Huebner			
	*9	5,569,205	10/96	Hart et al.			
	*10	5,571,109	11/1996	Bertagnoli			
	*11	5,609,636	03/1997	Kohrs et al.			
	*12	5,720,748	02/1998	Kuslich et al.			
	*13	5,741,253	04/1998	Michelson			
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
					CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation
							Yes    No
	*53	WO 93/14801	8/1993	PCT			
	*54	WO 96/27345	9/1996	PCT			
	*55	WO 96/40020	12/1996	PCT			
	*56	WO 99/09896	3/1999	PCT			
	*57	WO 99/09913	3/1999	PCT			
	*58	WO 99/52453	10/1999	PCT			
Examiner				Date Considered			
<b>*Examiner:</b> initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)  Sheet 2 of 4				Atty. Docket No. 4002-3501/PC361.18		Serial No. New Application	
				Applicant Burkus et al.			
				Filing Date Herewith		Group	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
*Examiner Initial		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Filing Date If appropriate
	*14	5,759,185	06/1998	Grinberg			
	*15	5,766,252	06/1998	Henry et al.			
	*16	5,772,661	06/1998	Michelson			
	*17	5,785,710	07/1998	Michelson			
	*18	5,797,909	08/1998	Michelson			
	*19	5,865,834	02/1999	McGuire			
	*20	5,865,847	02/1999	Kohrs et al.			
	*21	5,885,299	03/1999	Winslow et al.			
	*22	5,899,908	05/1999	Kuslich et al.			
	*23	5,947,971	09/1999	Kuslich et al.			
	*24	5,968,098	10/1999	Winslow			
	*25	6,004,326	12/1999	Castro et al.			
	*26	6,033,405	03/2000	Winslow et al.			
	*27	6,042,582	03/2000	Ray			
	*28	6,056,749	05/2000	Kuslich			
	*29	6,059,790	05/2000	Sand et al.			
	*30	6,063,088	05/2000	Winslow			
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation Yes      No
	*59	WO 99/59481	11/99	PCT			
	*60	WO 00/041654	07/2000	PCT			
	*61	WO 00/041655	07/2000	PCT			
	*62	EP 0 880 938 A1	12/98	EP			
	*63	EP 0 732 093 A2	2/96	EP			
Examiner				Date Considered			
*Examiner: initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

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Sheet 3 of 4				Applicant Burkus et al.			
				Filing Date Herewith		Group	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
*Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Filing Date If appropriate	
	*31	6,080,155	06/2000	Michelson			
	*32	6,083,225	07/2000	Winslow et al.			
	*33	6,086,595	7//2000	Yonemura et al.			
	*34	6,096,038	08/2000	Michelson			
	*35	6,113,602	09/2000	Sand			
	*36	6,120,506	09/2000	Kohrs et al.			
	*37	6,123,705	09/2000	Michelson			
	*38	6,156,595	12/2000	Yonemura et al.			
	*39	6,159,214	12/2000	Michelson			
	*40	6,113,602	09/2000	Sand			
	*41	6,171,339	01/2001	Houfburg et al.			
	*42	6,174,311	01/2001	Branch et al.			
	*43	6,210,412	04/2001	Michelson			
	*44	6,224,599	05/2001	Baynham			
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	*46	6,224,607	05/2001	Michelson			
	*47	6,277,122	08/2001	McGahan et al.			
	*48	6,447,512	09/2002	Landry et al.			
	*49	6,575,981	06/2003	Boyd et al.			
	*50	6,582,437	06/2003	Dorchak et al.			
	*51	6,648,895	11/2003	Burkus et al.			
	*52	US/01/0016741	08/2001	Burkus et al.			
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation		
					Yes	No	
*64	WO/0045709	8/10/2000	PCT				
Examiner			Date Considered				
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